seen. The well is still to be completed and tested.

(c) The question of commencement of oil production does not arise at this stage. Commencement of commercial production of natural gas will depend upon the likely investments for utilisation of such gas.

Hiring of private helicopters by CIL

7. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Coal India Limited have hired private helicopters for their officers to visit Western Coalfield areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that these areas are not approachable by car;

(c) since when the helicopters have been put to use together with fare per hour or per day and who are the officers authorised to use these helicopters;

(d) what is the daily and monthly expenditure incurred on hiring these helicopters; and

(e) what is the total number of helipads constructed for the purpose and the expenditure incurred on their construction?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Coal India has not hired any private helicopter for their officers to visit Western Coalfield areas. However, Coal India has hired one helicopter from M|s. Pawan Hans Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking, and has stationed it at Nagpur.

(b) The areas are approachable by car also, but to reach many of the mines and other installations by car will take considerable time.

(c) The helicopter has been hired by CIL since 15-4-1988. The charges for hire are as under:—

	Monthly fixed charges	Hourly charges
From 15-4-88	Rs. 8,73,100/-	Rs. 6,555/-
From 15-4-89	Rs. 7,98,229/-	Rs. 12,742/-

Normally, the Chairman and Directors of CIL, CMDs and Directors of Subsidiary Companies and visiting dignitaries are authorised to use the helicopter. It is also used for meeting emergencies.

(d) Actual expenditure incurred on hiring Pawan Hans helicopter is as under:—

1988:89 – Rs. 1,17,87,946/-
1989-90 – Rs. 1,54,27,100/-

(e) Total number of helipads constructed in WCL is 9.

A sum of Rs. 4,93,142|- has been incurred on construction of these helipads.

Electrification of villages in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

8. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu which have not so far been electrified;

(b) whether the targets fixed in these States during the last two years have been achieved; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) As per available information, at the end of February, 1990, 52 and 18 villages remain to be electrified in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu respectively.

(b) The targets fixed in these two states during the last two years have been achieved.

(c) Does not arise.

Suspension of further purchase of Airbus A-320 Aircraft

9. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have decided not to take delivery of more Airbus A-320 aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Extension of runway at Cuddapah Air port in Andhra Pradesh

10. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made with regard to the extension of runway at Cuddapah Airport in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what are the reasons for discontinuing Vayudoot service to this airport?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) The National Airports Authority has no plan to extend the existing runway at Cuddapah airport.

(b) Due to shortage of aircraft, Vayudoot service to Cuddapah has been suspended.

Setting up of new industries in Andhra Pradesh

11. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any specific plan to set up new industries in Andhra Pradesh especially in its backward and 'No Industry' districts in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Industrialisation of particular districts in a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, in order to promote industrialisation and reduce regional imbalances, the Central Government offers a number of incentives such as priority in the grant of industrial licences, concessional finance, etc. to entrepreneurs setting up units in centrally declared backward areas. In the State of Andhra Pradesh 14 districts identified by the central government as industrially backward are eligible for the above incentives.

Central assistance to Andhra Pradesh for development of bio-gas

12. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central assistance to Andhra Pradesh for the development of bio-gas during the last three years; and

(b) what are the details of the steps taken in Andhra Pradesh to popularise bio-gas during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) During the last three years, a total sum of Rs. 4.69 crores has been released to Non-Conventional Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd. for implementation of National Project on Bio-gas Development.

(b) A target of setting up of 8000 family type bio-gas plants has been fixed for the State of Andhra Pradesh for 1990-91. With a view to popularising bio-gas plants in the State, special steps taken are construction of bio-gas plants on turn-key basis with two years warrantee; organisation of one-day Users Training Courses in the operation and maintenance of bio-gas plants, particularly women; training